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Cause Determined in Framingham High Rise Fire

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Framingham Fire Chief Ollie Gadson confirmed today that their departments' joint investigation into last Friday's high rise fire at 14 Temple St. off of Rt. 9 in Framingham was accidentally caused by a plumber's torch on the building's second floor.

State Police Investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office in coordination with members of Framingham's Fire Department and Police Department have concluded that the fire started adjacent to the internal plumbing chase in a bathroom area closest to Room 206. It is believed that a torch used by the plumber accidentally touched the lining in the chase, which caused a smoldering fire that eventually erupted into open flames.

The incident occurred on Friday, April 11, 2008 at 12:21 pm. The three-alarm fire heavily damaged the six-story apartment building and injured 12 firefighters. Eight of these firefighters were transported to local hospitals, held for observation and later released.

Firefighters from Natick and Ashland also responded to the fire and took 3 ½ hours to knock down, according to the Framingham Fire Department.

"The extent of this fire once again demonstrated the effectiveness of the local and regional mutual aid system," said State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan.

The total lost estimate is at approximately \$3 million with damage to up to 72 apartments, acknowledged Framingham Fire Chief Ollie Gadson.

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